XTE OBSERVATIONS OF INTERMEDIATE POLARS: RXTE TOO OBSERVATIONS OF SUPERNOVAE

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Two Intermediate Polars were observed with XTE: PQ Gem and AO Psc. A very preliminary analysis for PQ Gem was presented at the Annapolis Workshop on Magnetic Cataclysmic Variables. At about the same time, the XTE team created a new background estimator for faint sources. The PQ Gem data must be re-analyzed using the new background estimator. The data for AO Psc have been analyzed and await the analysis of PQ Gem.

We have recently learned that optical data were obtained contemporaneously with the XTE observations. The combination of optical and X-ray data enhance results that separately each data set do not. We are working to combine the optical and X-ray data sets prior to final publication.

Only one supernova was observed under the TOO proposal (SN1996cb). Those data were hostage to the poor background estimator for very weak sources. The new background estimator shows that no source was detected above the background. This result is not unexpected, given the relatively high background of the XTE PCA detector.